

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF JAN. 3.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P.M. on Jan. 3, 1922, in the American Museum of Natural History, Pres. John D. Sherman, Jr., in the chair, with 15 members and four visitors present.

Mr. Notman, for the Nominating Committee, recommended the reelection of the present officers and committees, as follows:

President—John D. Sherman, Jr.

Vice-president—Harry B. Weiss.

Secretary—Charles W. Leng.

Treasurer—W. T. Davis

Curator—Andrew J. Mutchler.

Librarian—Frank E. Watson.

Del. to Council—W. T. Davis.

Executive Committee.

H. G. Barber,

Geo. P. Engelhardt,

L. B. Woodruff,

Jos. Bequaert,

C. E. Olsen.

Publication Committee.

F. E. Lutz,

E. L. Dickerson,

Howard Notman—Chairman,

Chas. Schaeffer.

There being no other nomination, the Secretary cast an affirmative ballot, thereby completing their reelection.

Mr. Weiss proposed for active membership:

C. F. Curtis Riley, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg.

Mr. Quirsfeld proposed for active membership:

James T. Farrelly, Jr., 910 Jackson Ave., Bronx.

On motion duly seconded and carried, the by-laws were suspended and both candidates immediately elected.

Dr. Bequaert spoke in behalf of the publishers of the Zoölogical Record, stating that unless pecuniary aid were forthcoming, its publication would probably be suspended to the great detriment of science, especially entomology, which took a large part of each volume.

Mr. Davis mentioned the public assistance extended to some similar publications.

Mr. Sherman spoke against the Fordney Tariff Bill which would raise the cost of foreign publications to Americans 20 per cent.

Dr. Bequaert under the title "Wingless Hymenoptera with special reference to Mutillidæ" reviewed the advantages of the power of flight bestowed throughout the animal kingdom as a preliminary to the detailed consideration of the few cases in which special conditions made the absence of wings nevertheless desirable. Such conditions obtained in less than 1 per cent. of the Hymenoptera (omitting ants) and occurred occasionally in subterranean gall flies of burrowing habit and quite regularly in the females in the Mutillidæ and Thynnidæ. The life habits of these insects were then traced, the advantage of the wingless condition shown, as well as the concomitant modifications of thoracic structure. The much greater rarity of wingless males was mentioned and as instances thereof, the aquatic *Prestwittchia*, parasitic on water beetle eggs, and the fig insect were given. Comparisons with other orders, especially Diptera, were introduced, and complimentary reference made to the work on Wings of Diptera by Mario Bezzi, Dr. Bequaert being inclined to consider the flight power of Diptera superior.

In the discussion that followed Mr. Davis expressed admiration for the ability of Odonata to maintain long distance flight, citing their widespread distribution. Dr. Bequaert, however, thought the Diptera displayed, by use of halteres, far greater control, likening them to an aeroplane capable of entering a window, folding its wings and taking a seat in the room.

Various phases of the wingless condition in different orders were discussed by Dr. Sturtevant, Messrs. Notman, Davis, Dickerson, Johnson, Tee Van and other members, while the boxes of Mutillidæ brought by Dr. Bequaert were being passed around the room, bringing out the difficulty of correlating the sexes, the length of the ovipositor, etc.

MEETING OF JAN. 17.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:00 P.M. on Jan. 17, 1922, in the American Museum of Natural History, Pres. John D. Sherman, Jr., in the chair, with 20 members present.

Dr. Sturtevant under the title "Fifteen Months in Central California" described the climate and life zones of the region, illustrating his remarks by maps, photographs, botanical and entomological specimens. His collecting had been principally in Diptera and had yielded a new species of *Drosophila*, males of a species of *Lonchoptera*, heretofore rarely found, and *Sinophthalmus pictus*. The localities visited included Pacific Grove, Palo Alto and the Sierra Nevada near Lake Tahoe.

Mr. Davis exhibited 69 named forms of "Ants of Staten Island and Vicinity" and read memoranda relating to collecting trips with Dr. Bequaert, Louis H. Joutel and Prof. W. M. Wheeler, referring in passing to the latter's naming a form with 8 or 9 hairs on its head as "*davisi*."

Dr. Bequaert pointed out that of the 69 forms shown

- 7 belong to Dolichoderinae
- 4 belong to Ponerinae
- 25 belong to Myrmecinae
- 33 belong to Formicinae

and that *Lasius niger* was not only the most abundant ant but perhaps the commonest of all insects. Various other facts were discussed by the speakers, Messrs. Davis and Bequaert, and by the members present, especially the attraction of young poplar glands.

Mr. Hall called attention to *Argyannis nokomis* collected by O. C. Poling, Bishop, Inyo Co., Cal., and the danger of its being exterminated by sheep pastured in their breeding places.

It was announced that the collection of Dr. A. Fenyés was in part offered for sale.

Mr. Leng spoke of a recent visit to Mr. Gustav Beyer, who has recently acquired a collection of about 1,700 species of Exotic Buprestidæ.

MEETING OF FEB. 7.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:00 P.M. on Feb. 7, 1922, in the American Museum of Natural History, Pres. John D. Sherman, Jr., in the chair, with 22 members and four visitors present.

Mr. Henry Bird read a paper, illustrated by specimens of the species referred to and of their work, on "Some Adaptations of Indigenous Parasites to Introduced Pests."

The trend of the paper is to show the effort nature stands ready to make in restoring a proper balance, as shown where the European apple pest, *Hemerophila pariana*, recently gaining a foot-hold near New York City, is assailed by many native parasites even though we have no generic relative of this moth in our fauna. These are hymenopterous species, developing in the pupal stage, and for the season of 1921, at Rye, N. Y., their activities and whatever other causes may have worked in unison were sufficient to cause a decline in numbers of the final over the earlier broods. Attention was also called, through information from Dr. Aldrich, to a native Muscoid parasite, *Masicera senilis*, assailing the European Corn Borer in New England and to the fact that this cosmopolitan fly is a chief parasite of the Corn Borer in Europe. The wide dispersal of *senilis* in this country had been worked out by the speaker in extended breedings of very different boring larvæ.

Mr. Weiss read a paper on "Insects of a Moist Woods in the New Jersey Piedmont Plain," which will be printed elsewhere in full. The paper was il-

illustrated by specimens of the 688 species of insects considered, by maps of the State showing the geographical and faunal character of the area selected and by numerous photographs. It was shown that with scarcely one exception, the injury due to the insects was negligible; and that a preponderance of phytophagous insects in the more open thickets was replaced in the woods by an increased number of insects related to decaying vegetation.

In reply to a question from Mr. Taylor, present as a visitor, Mr. Weiss said the tension zone was not specially indicated by the insects occurring therein.

In connection with Mr. Weiss's paper, the disappearance of red cedar was discussed by Messrs. Nicolay, Davis, Olsen and Woodruff.

Mr. Groth congratulated the Society on the progress made since he first became a member, more than 30 years ago, and gave some interesting reminiscences of the hand-painting on early plates of slug-moth larvæ, of the dinners formerly held, and noted with pleasure that the Society was carrying on just the same now as then.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P.M. on Feb. 21, 1922, in the American Museum of Natural History. Mr. Wm. T. Davis in the chair, with 18 members and two visitors present.

Dr. Lutz spoke of "Altitude in Colorado and Geographic Distribution" pointing out that the distribution data for insects were so much less known or published than those for plants that he was obliged to use the latter in his studies. The usefulness of the zonal names proposed by Merriam was admitted but their ambiguity as compared with a designation derived from the average latitude was pointed out. This paper will be printed in full in the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History.

Mr. Notman spoke of "*Pseudomorpha* in this Country and Australia" exhibiting a remarkable collection of that and allied genera of beetles and discussing their characters and habits in minute detail. His paper will also be printed in full.

Mr. C. E. Olsen exhibited *Psychomorpha epimenis*, hatched indoors February 21, 1922.

Mr. J. W. Angell exhibited the following beetles, viz.: *Necrophilus pectiti* found at Cook's Falls, Delaware Co., N. Y., September, 1921.

Dorcus nanus Csy. found at Lakehurst, N. J., Aug. 15, 1914, by F. M. Schott.

Platycerus quercus v. *iovanus* Csy. found in Catskill Mts., N. Y., by A. S. Nicolay, each of these extending the published distribution. Society adjourned.

MEETING OF MARCH 7.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P.M. on March 7, 1922, in the American Museum of Natural History,

Pres. John D. Sherman, Jr., in the chair, with 11 members and one visitor present.

Dr. Bequaert spoke on "Problems of African Insect Distribution as exemplified by Ants." He said that in studying the geographical distribution of plants or animals, either the causes which produce the differences in the faunas and floras of various parts of the world, or the correlation between the organisms occurring in a certain region and their environment, may be investigated. In either case a taxonomic census of the various forms of life is the first step to be taken. As the method of investigation in this branch of natural history is chiefly comparative, it is of the utmost importance that our knowledge of the faunas and floras of all parts of the world be progressing at about the same pace. In this connection the study of the African fauna by the American Museum of Natural History, under the inspiration and with the support of President Henry Fairfield Osborn, is of especial value. The latest Museum contribution to the zoölogy of the Belgian Congo is an extensive report on the ants by Professor William Morton Wheeler. The first part of his paper has now appeared and from it were taken the data presented by Dr. Bequaert. Investigation of the many fauna of Africa has been carried on mostly during the last three decades. Della Torre's Catalogue of Formicidæ published in 1890 recorded 228 species for the Ethiopian and 119 for the Malagasy region, while in 1920 these figures became respectively 920 and 237, according to Professor Wheeler's calculations. Counting various varieties and subspecies, 1,850 forms of ants have been described so far from the Ethiopian region. Of the 269 genera of ants known at present, 90 occur in the Ethiopian region, 34 of these being endemic there; most of the other African genera being found also in the Malagasy, Indomalayan, Papuan and Australian regions. The relations of the Ethiopian ant fauna with that of the Palearctic, Nearctic and Neotropic regions are very slight. It is especially worthy of mention that the Ethiopian region has only 22 genera in common with the Neotropical, and these are mostly of cosmopolitan or "tramp" forms. Dr. Bequaert showed a series of maps, from Professor Wheeler's report, illustrating various types of distribution represented by Ethiopian ants. Of the genera endemic in that part of the world some range over the entire Ethiopian region (*Paltothyreus*, *Megaponera*, *Plectroctena* and *Atopomyrmex*), others are seemingly restricted to the Savannah country of the Sudan, and east and south Africa (*Messor* and *Ocymyrmex*), and still others occur in the West African Rain Forest (*Macromischoides*, *Psalidomyrmex*, *Engramma* and *Phrynoponera*). *Pachysima* is peculiar in being found only inside the branches of certain plants of the genus *Barteria*, which is not known outside of the West African Forest Province.

Mr. Nicolay gave some "Notes on Beetles of Washington, D. C.," showing especially Cleridae including rare and interesting species, with an account of his experiences on many collecting trips.

Mr. Angell called attention to the capture by Mr. Lesieski of *Hydrobius tessellatus* at Cluson Point.

MEETING OF MARCH 21.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on March 21, 1922, at 8 P.M., in the American Museum of Natural History. Pres. John D. Sherman, Jr., in the chair, with 16 members present.

Dr. Lutz reported his visit to Ithaca, which incidentally involved discussion of New York State List of Insects.

Mr. Barber exhibited a box of Hemiptera-Heteroptera collected by the Iowa State University Expedition to the West Indian Islands of Antigua and Barbadoes in the summer of 1918. The following families only were represented: Coreidæ, Lygæidæ, Pyrrhocoridæ, Reduviidæ and Tingidæ. Some of the species were represented by long series.

In his remarks concerning the twenty-one species represented, he spoke of the geographical range of each; mentioning the fact that the far greater number, 13, had a very wide range, most of them extending from South America to the southern United States. Only five were apparently endemic to the West Indies. He also spoke of the great preponderance of South American forms in the Lesser Antilles and noted some of the probable causes of their appearance there.

In the discussion which followed, Dr. Lutz, Dr. Bequaert, Messrs. Barber, Mutchler, Davis and Leng commented on the high state of cultivation in Barbados and the element of human introduction of sugar, cotton, banana, etc., as being important in considering West Indian distribution problems, especially where plants were transported with balls of earth attached.

Mr. Weiss having taken the chair, Mr. Sherman exhibited a 12-page pamphlet, hitherto overlooked by bibliographers, by Major John Leconte, entitled "List of the Coleopterous Insects of Georgia," published in 1849 as part of a volume of White's "Statistics of Georgia." The list enumerates 1,206 species, comparing therefore favorably with many lists in other departments of zoölogy, which have been similarly overlooked, and is a remarkable instance of the difficulty of obtaining a complete history of past events.

Mr. Davis exhibited "Some Insects from Virginia" showing five boxes of Orthoptera, 76 species, of which a list will be published later, and one box of miscellaneous insects. His remarks on his experiences in collecting them covered the songs of many, the preservation of their colors and methods of collecting.

For the benefit of those desiring Russian correspondents, the address of the Permanent Bureau of all Russian Entomologists was recorded as Litayny, 37/39, Room 59, Petrograd, Acting President, Prof. N. Bogdanovkatzkov.

MEETING OF APRIL 4.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P.M., on April 4, 1922, in the American Museum of Natural History; Pres. John D. Sherman, Jr., in the chair, with 19 members and one visitor present.

Mr. Davis reported injury to Mrs. Slosson from a fall, resulting in a broken rib. He also exhibited a bound volume of Henry Bird's papers.

Mr. Notman spoke of "Distribution of some species of *Bembidion* in New York State" pointing out the occurrence of *nitidum* and *4-maculatum* in dry places, *contractum* at the seashore, as striking and well-known examples of limited distribution, and then taking up the distribution as he had established it at fourteen stations of *fugax*, *planum*, *grandiceps*, *planiusculum*, *simplex*, *complanulum* and *picipes*, allied species living under stones at the edge of water, the more subaquatic species being placed first. He gave incidentally, interesting details of the habits of some other species saying, for instance, that while many probably rarely come out into daylight, others like *confusum* and *chalceum* are active on sandbars, flying in the sunshine like *Cicindela*.

Mr. Leng exhibited *Cicindela nevadica* and *Knausi* and read a communication relating thereto from Mr. Knaus.

Mr. Comstock spoke of Entomology in Baltimore, especially of Maryland Academy of Sciences and Johns Hopkins University.

Mr. Woodruff spoke briefly of his theatrical experiences.

Dr. Sturtevant spoke of a remarkable Dolichopodid recently found on the Pacific with part of the trophi heavily chitinized and simulating mandibles to be hereafter described by Messrs. Aldrich and Snodgrass.

Mr. Weiss called attention to a valuable bulletin, No. 986, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, "Studies on the Biology and Control of Chiggers," by H. E. Ewing, and to a popular article in Radio News for Feb. 1922, "Do Insects talk by Wireless," by Raymond F. Yates.

Mr. Davis exhibited some South African Cicadas in the Museum collection, giving some results of his studies thereon.

MEETING OF APRIL 18.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:00 P.M. on April 18 in the American Museum of Natural History; Pres. John D. Sherman, Jr., in the chair, with 16 members and two visitors, Mr. Sherman of N. Y. U. and Mr. Hatch of Syracuse University, present.

Announcement was made from Dr. Felt's address by radio from Schenectady on April 24.

Mr. Davis exhibited "Insects collected along Potomac River" when with Messrs. Shoemaker and Nicolay in September 1921. Four pints of Cave Crickets, *Cychnus*, etc., were taken in traps and more *Cychnus* under stones, besides many other interesting Carabidæ.

Some episodes related to finding *Catocala* under sewer pipe, *Bombus impatiens* in coitu, wood thrush singing in Georgetown while trolley car passed by, the excellence of papaw and persimmon, the songs of Cicadas, etc.

Mr. Notman exhibited three *Pachyta rugipennis* and five *Anthophilax malachiticus* collected June 9, 1920, at Keene Heights, Essex Co., N. Y., in the vicinity of dead spruce.

Mr. Nicolay exhibited an article from the Brooklyn "Eagle" in reference to some remarks by Mr. Weeks and Mr. Davis' comments thereon;

and showed also some photographs of trips on Long Island with Messrs. Notman and Davis.

Mr. Barber exhibited local Tingidæ collected by Messrs. Dickerson and Weiss.

Mr. Weiss showed four old pamphlets
Sprague's 1871 compilation of Randall's Species of Coleoptera.
Directions for preparing Bibliographical Record, Psyche, 1879.
Directions for the collection of Coleoptera by Geo. Dimmock, 1872.
Geo. Dimmock's Cat. of Coleop. & Lepid. 1871.

Messrs. Hatch and Sherman, present as visitors, briefly addressed the Society, which, after a general discussion of books and collecting trips, adjourned.

MEETING OF MAY 2.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:00 P.M. on May 2, 1922, in the American Museum of Natural History. Vice-pres. Harry B. Weiss in the chair, with 15 members and one visitor present.

Previous to the opening of the meeting the members enjoyed refreshments provided by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis read greeting from Dr. Bequaert dated Plymouth, April 16th, and showed photographs of Messrs. Good, Sherman and Hatch, recent visitors at meetings.

On motion by Mr. Bird, the thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Davis for the repast provided earlier in the evening.

Mr. Notman showed his collection of the genus *Elaphrus*, containing all the eastern species. He also spoke at length of the Staphylinid genus *Osoarius*, exhibiting a collection from Paraguay, Mexico, West Indies, etc., partly borrowed from the U. S. Nat. Museum, pointing out the tropical distribution of most of the species, their structural characters and their fossorial adaptations. He said that the material exhibited indicated 16 new species and 2 new genera. In the discussion that followed Mr. Nicolay added some details of localities for *Elaphrus*.

Mr. Mutchler having taken the chair, Mr. Weiss spoke of "Pontedera's 1718 Paper on Cicada" exhibiting photographic reproduction of the original and tracing thereby the error of Jaeger and others as to the number of years some species live under ground. This paper will be published in full.

Mr. Weiss also called attention to newspaper stories comparing radio and insects.

Mr. Davis exhibited a Chinese cage for grasshoppers to be used in providing live food for cage birds, given to him by Miss Taft of the New York Times.

Mr. Mutchler spoke of recent visitors at the American Museum of Natural History, Mr. Fred Muir of Honolulu, on his way to England, to

visit his aged father-in-law, Dr. David Sharp, Mr. A. B. Wolcott of Porto Rico, etc.

MEETING OF MAY 16.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P.M., on May 16th, 1922, in the American Museum of Natural History, Pres. John D. Sherman, Jr., in the chair, with 16 members and eight visitors present.

Mr. Shoemaker exhibited eight boxes of Chrysomelidæ and a number of rare and interesting moths allied to *Nacophora quernaria*. He called attention to the work of Hulst and that of Moffatt on the moths shown and to that of Knab on the Chrysomelid beetles of the genus *Calligrapha* in relation to the specimens shown.

Mr. Mutchler spoke first of the beginning of the automobile journey to Colorado by Dr. Lutz and Mr. Sievers, showing postal cards received by him from various places as far west as Indiana. He also exhibited for Mr. Watson a remarkable bug from the Philippine Islands.

Mr. Mutchler then spoke in conjunction with Mr. Weiss on "Economic Species of *Agrilus* in New Jersey" of which a new key based on obvious characters will be printed by New Jersey Agricultural Dept.; 21 species were discussed with reference to their food plant, the damage done, and the character of the workings of the larva.

Mr. Engelhardt gave an interesting account of his visit to Mobile, Ala., and collecting experiences with Mr. Loding, Dr. Van Aller and Mr. Dukes, during which he visited the coastal swamp at Gulfport, Miss., the cypress swamp at Bayou Chippewa, and the higher country about Spring Hill. He visited by auto the localities where the extensive cultivation of pecan nuts and Satsuma oranges is being encouraged to replace the damage to the cotton crop done by the boll weevil and ended his trip at the Florida State Museum at Gainesville, after visiting at St. Petersburg, Fla., with George Franck, whom he found at 80 years of age, somewhat feeble.

Mr. Sherman spoke of his recent visit to Washington, of Colonel Casey's forthcoming Memoirs X devoted to South American Barini, of Dr. Howard, W. M. Mann and Dr. Schwarz. In reference to the list of beetles of Georgia published in White's "Statistics of Georgia" he said Dr. Schwarz had discovered that its author was neither John Eaton Leconte nor John Lawrence Leconte, but a cousin of the latter, having the same initials.